

Hamsplatter



"the '94 machine
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has for a long
time."

November 1997

Volume 26, Issue 11



Many Successes in the Month of October for the FWRC

The month of October will go down in infamy for me due to my injuring my back and the required corrective operation that followed a week later. An unusually speedy recovery has enabled me to return to work in less than 2 weeks after the surgery and to get back into the swing of things with the radio club. I would like to thank all of you for your support of the club functions and your encouragement for my speedy recovery.

The October meeting was election night for the Club officers and Board Members for 1998. Elected as President was Bill Stockslager (N9WS), Vice-President - Scott Price (N9VZJ), Secretary - Al Burke (WB9SSE), Treasurer - Bob Streeter (W8ST), Station Trustee - Lynn Hyndman (W9FC), Communications Manager - Cliff Shreve (N9MKB), three Board Directors - Carole Burke (WB9RUS), Carl Rittenhouse (N9NRO), and Becky Stockslager (N2XUW) with Jim Pliett (K9OMA) assuming the fourth board member following his term as President for 1997.

One of the big events during October was the Boy

Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) that our club sponsored on Saturday, October 18th at Kramer Park near Greencenter, IN. Approx-



mately 35 Webelos scouts showed up for the event along with about 20 parents and scout leaders. Many of the scouts showed great interest in the Amateur Radio demonstration. There were a HF station and two 2 meter stations operating at the site. Key to the day's success were the operators of the stations, Cliff

**Next Meeting
Friday 11/21/97
at the Good Shepherd
United Methodist
Church
Corner of Vance Ave
and Reed Rd**

Shreve (N9MKB), Clint Sledge (KB9LOF), and Todd Hargis (N9XRG). Helping with the setup of the equipment were Jim (KB9DOS) and Kim (KB9DOT) Machamer, Carl Rittenhouse (N9NRO) and Jim Pliett (K9OMA) with Becky Stockslager (N2XUW) providing rescue transportation of the team following the event. All felt that it was a very successful event. A big "Well Done" to all who participated in this

event both on site and in providing contacts on the local 2 meter repeaters!

A lot of work by several club members was put in since the last meeting to get the 146.94 repeater back on the air. And we are now enjoying the fruits of their labor as the '94 machine is now performing better than it has for a long time. Todd Hargis (N9XRG) lead the team in tackling the '94 repeater with a lot of help from Carl Rittenhouse (N9NRO), Scott Price (N9VZJ), Wayne Bergamino (KB9OZH), Dave Evans (N9LOV), Bill Kindred (WA9RAP), Randy Sterling (W9LSU) and quite a few others providing advice and test support. A hearty "Well Done" to the team for an outstanding job!

Scott Price (N9VZJ) who will provide an in-depth review of how the repeaters are now set up and how to access their features will give the program for the November meeting on Friday, November 21. Hope to see you all at the meeting!

73s,

Bill Stockslager
Acting President.

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Todd Hargis,
N9XRG 492-2138

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KF2BF 471-5692

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(open)

Secretary:
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637-1989

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October Minutes FWRC

1. The October meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 17 October, 1997. There were about 40 people present, and the meeting was opened by Jim Pliett who was standing in for acting President Bill Stockslager who was ill.

2. The September minutes were read, and the following comments were requested to be added. Mike Stein pointed out that he had agreed to run for IRCC rep during nominations at the September meeting, and Clint Stedge pointed out that he had been a participant in recent Foxhunts.

3. Treasurer Carl Rittenhouse reported that as of 17 October, 1997 the General account held a balance of \$4655.66, the Hamfest account held a balance of \$500.00 and the Repeater account held a balance of \$1819.86.

4. Jim announced that Anne Pliett, Becky Stockslager and Carole Burke were coordinating the details of the Christmas Party meal. This year the affair will be held on 16 December and will start at 6:30pm. Head-count planning is a critical item for the party to make sure we have just the right amount of food for all, so a telephone calling campaign is planned.

5. Jim reported that 146.76, 146.91 and the ATV machine are all functioning, although some problems had been experienced with the announcement recorder on the .76 machine. Carl Rittenhouse had just received the new crystals for the .94 RF deck, and an attempt

would be made to bring the machine up next week, perhaps from Carl's house. Todd Hargis volunteered to head up the Repeater Technical Committee (a need that has been discussed for some time) with the intent of providing a larger cadre of club members familiar with the workings of our repeaters who could provide when-needed maintenance in a timely manner.

6. Jim reported that he had given a talk and demonstration of our ATV machine to ACARTS that was well received. He also reported that the FWRC would have two tables at the upcoming ACARTS hamfest.

7. Jim reopened nominations for elections with the result that Clint Stedge, KB9LOF was added to the slate for Director, and as mentioned previously, Mike Stein, N9NOO was added to the slate for IRCC rep. As a result, since only one person had been nominated for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Station Trustee and Communications Manager, the following persons were elected by default:
 President - Bill Stockslager
 Vice President - Scott Price
 Secretary - Al Burke
 Treasurer - Bob Streeter
 Station Trustee - Lynn Hyndman
 Comm Manager - Cliff Shreve

The slate for Director was: Wayne Bergamino, Carole Burke, Anne Pliett, Carl Rittenhouse, Mike Stein, Becky Stockslager, Walt Wood and Clint Stedge. (Jim Pliett is au-

tomatically on the Board as outgoing President). Dave Evans served to count the ballots for the three Directors to be elected, and the following persons were elected for the 1997-1998 term:

Carl Rittenhouse
 Becky Stockslager
 Carole Burke

As the club membership roster can support all of the persons who volunteered to serve as IRCC reps, there was no need to vote on them. Consequently, the new IRCC reps are:

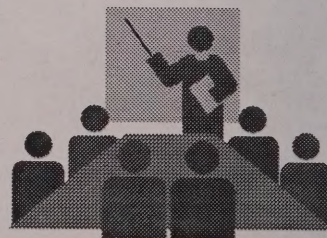
Mike Stein
 Valerie Stein
 Bill Hall
 Dave Evans
 The Club Officers
 The Club Directors

8. Anne Pliett conducted the 50/50 Club activities again with a resulting \$15.00 pot that was split between winner by Bob Curts, KA9ZAZ, and the club treasury. Bob gracefully donated \$7.00 of his winnings back to the club.

There being no other club business, nor a program, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE



VE Testing Dates

The following dates have been received and printed for your convenience. Please advise in the usual manner should there be any additions, deletions or corrections. Should your VE team cancel a test session please advise, don't leave people out in the dark as they may drive quite a few miles to reach your site. This schedule is produced to cover the remainder of the year for your planning purposes, it will be published again prior to December to catch any changes.

This information was derived from ARRL records along with other sources and overlaps from my INARRL BULLETIN 75-97.

11/08/97
12/06/97
William Peterson
Charles L Ross KA9CVQ
219-762-2887
219-656-4494
VEC: ARRL/VEC
VEC: W5YI-VEC
Chesterton, IN 46304
South Bend, IN 46614

11/08/97
12/07/97
Mike Hughes
Fred Mahalek
219-696-3637
812-466-2122
VEC: W5YI-VEC
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Dermont, IN 46356
Terre Haute, IN 47807

11/08/97
12/11/97
Terry L Brooks
John Deegan K9XT
812-421-9135
317-846-2979

VEC: ARRL/VEC
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Evansville, IN 47712
Fishers, IN 46038

11/11/97
12/13/97
crepeau@tech.iupui.edu
William Peterson
317-972-4190
219-762-2887
VEC: Western Carolinas ARS
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Chesterton, IN 46304

11/14/97
12/13/97
Alan Seifert
Mike Hughes
219-232-6883
219-696-3637
VEC: W5YI-VEC
VEC: W5YI-VEC
South Bend, IN 46615
Dermont, IN 46356

11/15/97
12/13/97
David A Wendt
Tim Crafton K9TC
317-974-1488
812-332-3734
VEC: ARRL/VEC
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Franklin, IN 46131
Spencer, IN 47460

11/16/97
12/15/97
Will Puranen
Richard Basham
765-453-6542
219-842-2345
VEC: W5YI-VEC
VEC: W5YI-VEC
Kokomo, IN 46902
Plymouth, IN 46511

11/19/97
12/17/97
Tom Donaldson N9LFU

317-326-3168
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Indianapolis, IN 46290

11/21/97
12/19/97
Charles Sufana
219-923-8308
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Highland, IN 46322

11/24/97
12/19/97
Richard Basham
Alan Seifert
219-842-2345
219-232-6883
VEC: W5YI-VEC
VEC: W5YI-VEC
Plymouth, IN 46511
South Bend, IN 46615

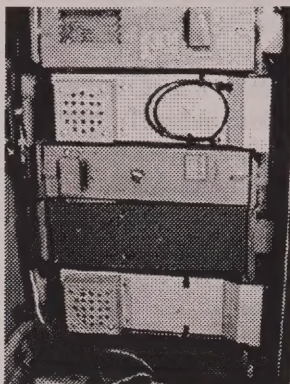
11/27/97
12/20/97
Jim Smith
Terry L Brooks
219-693-1725
812-421-9135
VEC: W5YI-VEC
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Columbia City, IN 46725
Evansville, IN 47712

12/06/97
12/20/97
Peggy Coulter
Raymond G. Crepeau K1HG
765-288-0481
317-972-4190
VEC: ARRL/VEC
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Muncie, IN 47305
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Submitted by: Don Evilsizor



W9TE Repeater Update



Well folks we now have five operational repeaters. The 146.940 repeater was brought back on the air within a week of starting the work. This Herculean effort was brought about through the efforts of no less than eight people coming together for a common cause. Many thanks go out to the technical team for their perseverance through this ordeal. The repeater is now tuned and has about an 80 watt output. Judging by the reports from the field the coverage area of this repeater is greater and the overall audio quality has been greatly improved.

To eliminate confusion, the autopatch procedures are now the same for the 146.940 and the 146.910 machines.

The autopatch procedure is:

**Give your call then
Dial 9 + your number + *.
Your call should go through.**

When you are finished with your call give your call sign again to clear the autopatch and hit the # button. You should then hear the autopatch drop.

The 146.940 machine has a PL tone squelch of 131.8. This should eliminate QRM from other closer repeaters or machines on the same frequency running high power.

As the head of the technical team I would like to thank you for your patience during this down time. We are currently making contingency plans to avoid having excessive down time in the future. We have quite a few parts now at our disposal and Randy Sterling is tuning up a back up receiver and transmitter which can be used in the event of equipment malfunction.

We now have a main contact number which members can call to report problems with the repeaters. That number is:

**FWRC Repeater
Hot Line
219-485-4067**

Clint Stedje has volunteered to field calls and to contact the appropriate people to address the problem reported. Please use only this number because we wish to address problems in a timely fashion. To contact any other number could result in a delayed response.

73's
Todd Hargis (N9XRG)

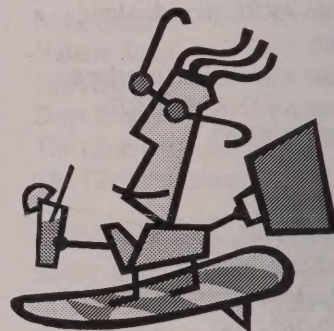


The Internet Generation Taps Into Morse Code

By ANNA WILDE MATHEWS
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

FREEPORT, Ill.-On a recent Sunday afternoon, Jim Adkins went down in his basement to talk with a friend at the other end of the state. But he didn't log onto his nearby computer, or dial the telephone sitting on his small desk.

Instead, the retired railroad dispatcher sat at a 50-year-old telegraph and tapped out



... (Hi Bill). A moment later, he got a responding pattern of clicks. "It lets us keep in touch," says Mr. Adkins, 67 years old, who uses the telegraph for regular chats with other members of the Morse Telegraph Club.

Morse code, the 153-year-old system of dots and dashes that displaced the Pony Express, still plays a role in the age of cell phones and modems. A decade after the last telegraph circuit shut down, and two years after the U.S. Coast Guard stopped monitoring Morse radio transmissions, an odd alliance of hobbyists, academics and military officers is keeping it alive with a variety of new uses.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Some aficionados even argue that a small Morse renaissance is under way, with everyone from disabled students to amateur radio operators mastering the code.

"People think Morse is outdated and unsophisticated," says Gerald Wheeler, whose Palm Desert, Calif., company sells 100 copies a month of a Morse tutorial program for Windows 95. "But it still has many uses."

Indeed, Morse plays a hidden part even in highly technical procedures like landing an airplane. Code broadcasts identify U.S. airport radio frequencies, where pilots tune in to guide their planes onto the runway. Buoys outside major ports have Morse identifiers, which respond to radar scans from cargo vessels looking for the proper channel to enter. All students at the U.S. Naval Academy still learn Morse in their first year, in case they someday have to communicate in battle by flashing lights from ship to ship.

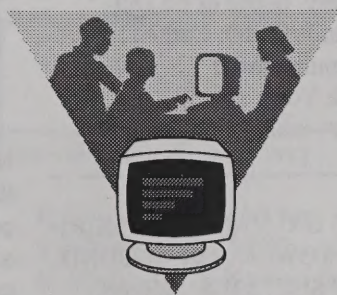
"You don't want to have an officer out there who doesn't know Morse code," says Lt. James Santomour, an instructor at the academy. "It's vital."

Of course, the code's role today is minuscule compared with the historical importance of Morse, once the only way to send messages quickly across the country. It was developed by Samuel F.B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, who used it to transmit the first telegraphed message ("What Hath God Wrought?") from Washington to Baltimore in 1844.

During the 19th century, the code was used to transmit Wall Street buy and sell orders, monitor speeding freight trains

and broadcast the correct time so that people nationwide could set their clocks. Civil War generals got intelligence from Morse operators who carried telegraphs in hot-air balloons above enemy troops. Americans learned of Lindbergh's landing in Paris from an overseas Morse dispatch. The last radio message from the sinking Titanic in 1912 was the ominous ... --- ... (SOS) ocean distress signal.

But few wanted to deal with



dashes and dots once modern phones appeared. The then-Western Union Co. (now a unit of payment-services company First Data Corp.) sent its last Morse telegram in 1960. Cargo ships now carry cell phones and can use satellites to send faxes from the middle of the ocean to offices around the world. Even the Boy Scouts of America scuttled Morse in 1991, citing lack of interest. "It was the least popular merit badge in the organization," says a spokesman.

Oddly, though, this throwback to the dawn of telecommunications is finding a new following among the most techno-savvy, who often learn about it through the Internet. Web sites for fans abound, featuring everything from poetic paeans to Morse ("Code Ode") to minutia like the American - Morse symbol for a comma (-.-). More than 20 audio and computer software programs promise to teach the code to a generation

that never actually saw it used. Young enthusiasts are also driving up the value of old telegraph sets, doubling prices in just the last five years, collectors say.

The American Radio Relay League, a national group based in Newington, Conn., says that at least 85,000 of its members use Morse regularly, though they can now get amateur radio licenses that don't require knowledge of the code. Some take part in Morse contests, competing to transcribe quickly and accurately from a radio broadcast. Radio Morse even appeared at the recent Miss America pageant, when several volunteers sent messages to contestants' friends and families in code, using their own backstage machines.

Derek Cohn, a longtime ham-radio user, decided to take his Morse fixation even further a few years ago. The 31-year old computer programmer learned how to use a telegraph from a 96-year-old retired operator. Now, his St. Louis apartment is lined with glass cases of Morse equipment, and he does telegraph demonstrations at schools and museums. The old-fashioned instrument and its simple code are a refuge from his job fixing software glitches at a telephone company, which keeps him on 'call via beeper and cell phone 24 hours a day, Mr. Cohn says.

"This is the antithesis of what I do at work," he says. "It's a good place to hide from my technology."

A four-year-old research group called Morse 2000 uses the code to help people with disabilities communicate, sometimes with nothing more than long and short eye blinks. The organization, based in Eau Claire, Wis., says interest is rising: Readership for its publication,

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Internet Generation cont.

(Continued from page 5)

MORSEls, has grown from 45 to 2,600 in the last two years. Next month, leaders hope that educators will converge in Bloomington, Minn., for perhaps the first academic Morse conference, with talks on everything from "the standardization of Morse-characters for computer access" to "signal detection in noise."

But - no one uses Morse more religiously than the 2,400 members of the Morse Telegraph Club, which has made its own (green eyeshades to mimic the ones telegraph operators once wore. The group meets every year on the birthday of Samuel F.B. Morse, presenting, naturally enough, the opening prayer in code. It publishes its own newspaper, Dots and Dashes, featuring code-related reminiscences, the Morse in the Movies column for film buffs and an obituary section called "Silent Keys."

Every Saturday, club members hook up their old telegraphs for a weekly party line, using modems to adjust the century-old technology to modern phone wires.

Most of the time, the members use Morse talks to keep up and exchange gossip, from occasional updates about cattle to the reports on Alaska weather. One member found out about the birth of his first grandchild via telegraph - after his telephone broke.

For Mr. Adkins, the club's current president, the talks are also a way to maintain the language. "It's a part of history," he says. "Our mission is to keep it going."



FREE - Triangular 50-60 foot steel Amateur Radio tower and 2-meter beam. Very good condition. Must be taken down without doing any damage to property. Estate of Ed Dullaghan W9PAQ. Call 432-3107 to examine tower.

Thank You!

"Walt" whackett@pol.net

48 FT GALVANIZED AMERICAN TOWER, ON GROUND, 6 8FT SECTIONS \$50.00

Contact

Cliff N9MKB at 483-7570

25 FT TRIPOD TOWER
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Contact:

Aldoph Wazniak WA9WTJ

483-4371



Amateur Radio to Get Permanent Place on International Space Station



NASA officials have announced that Amateur Radio will get a permanent place in space history as the first officially accepted payload aboard the International Space Station. Officials say two of the three astronauts scheduled to inhabit the space station in January 1999, will be licensed Amateur Radio operators. Licensed astronauts will use Amateur Radio to keep in touch with family and friends at home and provide unique educational experiences for young people. School groups will be able to talk via Amateur Radio with those on the space station and actually get involved with the experiments they are working on. Future plans for the Amateur Radio equipment on the space station include two-way video links and experiments with other communication techniques that use Amateur Radio frequencies. Today, there are more than 65 U.S. astronauts who hold Amateur Radio licenses. ARRL can provide more information on Amateur Radio's use in communications with space shuttles and Mir.

Membership Data: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to the address below)

Name _____ Call _____ Class: N T G A AE

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Work Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Shall we list your address and phone number in the membership roster Y N ?

Are you presently an ARRL member Y N ?

Membership Term: (Jan - Dec) (Jul - Dec)

Family Membership: \$21.00yr \$10.50yr immediate family (list all callsigns)

Regular Membership: \$15.00yr \$7.50yr licensed member

Student Membership: \$6.00yr \$3.00yr full time student

Associate Membership: \$15.00yr \$7.50yr unlicensed member

Your Check Number _____ please pay by check. It's easier for both of us.

Mail to: The Fort Wayne Radio Club
PO Box 15127
Fort Wayne, IN 46885

HAMSPLATTER



November 1997

The Fort Wayne Radio Club

W9TFE



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CHURUBUSCO, IN



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FORT WAYNE, IN 46885

